

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 29, 2015

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Action Teams Addressing Survey Concerns

by Linda Wilson

In 2014, 52 percent of MoDOT employees provided feedback in the statewide employee engagement survey. As a result, several areas were identified for improvement. Five teams of employees have been formed to work on the areas of employee



development, one team MoDOT, total compensation, under representation and use of resources. The teams have been formed and are starting to meet and work on their objectives. Updates will be provided on a regular basis while the teams are working to understand the issues and develop solutions. The teams have four to six months to provide recommendations to senior management with implementation within the year.

Watch for more information in the coming months for ways employees can provide input to these teams. The team members are provided here and employees are invited to contact any member of the teams with questions, comments or suggestions.

Employee Development - This team is charged with ensuring MoDOT employees are aware of all programs and processes that provide opportunities for recognition, employee development and promotions. Employees can email the team at: EmployeeDevelopmentTeam@modot.mo.gov.

Team Lead: Laurel McKean, district traffic engineer, KC

Sponsors: Brenda Morris, financial director, CO and Eric Schroeter, state design engineer, CO

Rebecca Allmeroth, district maintenance engineer, STL
Kristen Bagwill, human resources employee development manager, CO
Shirley Bock, financial services manager, CO
David Bower, senior right of way specialist, KC
Stephen Butler, maintenance supervisor, STL
Karl Desch, senior equipment technician, CD
Angela Eden, senior customer relations specialist, SW
Anthony Forrest, senior design technician, NE

Arij Humeida, highway designer, KC
Kyle LePage, senior multimodal operations specialist, CO
Jennifer Nelp, executive assistant, CO
Britney Richardson, human resources specialist, NW
Jose Rodriguez, traffic operations engineers, NW
Mary Shrubbs, senior human resources technician, SE
Michael Spanberger, construction inspector, SW
Arthur Stewart, senior maintenance worker, SW

One Team MoDOT - This team is charged with building the value of One Team by focusing on effectively communicating with employees so they have the information they want and need. Employees can email the team at: Todd.Grosvenor@modot.mo.gov.

Team Lead: Todd Grosvenor, financial services special projects coordinator, CO

Sponsors: Paula Gough, district engineer, NE and Scott Marion, motor carrier services director, CO

Michele Compton, senior customer relations specialist, KC
Steff Copeland, motor carrier investigations administrator, CO
Jim Feeney, maintenance crew leader, STL
Devin Frank, resources management analyst, CO
Lindsay Harris, senior traffic studies specialist, KC
Dana Kaiser, senior executive assistant, CO
Andy Long, senior construction technician, NE

Frank Miller, district planning manager, SW
Sally Oxenhandler, customer relations manager, CD
Tom Reed, intermediate construction inspector, STL
Richard Russell, maintenance supervisor, SE
Mike Shields, senior maintenance worker, CD
David Wyman, area engineer, SE

Under Representation - This team is charged with improving the numbers of any underrepresented demographic group in any job category. The team will focus on ways to improve this trend through a variety of means. It is a complicated problem and the team hopes to find simple solutions. The team is asking how do we get better employees here, keep them and promote them. Employees can email the team at: employeerepresentation@modot.mo.gov.

Team Leader: Eric Curtit, administrator of railroads, CO

Sponsor: Dan Niec, district engineer, KC

Steve Butler, maintenance supervisor, STL
Michael Catching, maintenance crew leader, STL
Tim Chojnacki, maintenance liaison engineer, CO
Josshe' Inez Palm, highway designer, NW

Katie Morton, senior transportation enforcement investigator, STL
Jeanne Olubogun, district traffic engineer, STL
Elizabeth Reed, senior human resources specialist, CO

Melissa Mahoney, construction inspector, KC
Cathy Morrison, senior multimedia services specialist, CO

Angela Sutton, senior civil rights specialist, CO
Nicole Thieret, customer relations manager, SE
Albezza Treasure, human resources specialist, SW

Use of Resources - This team is charged with increasing the transparency and flexibility of the budgeting process, and developing strategies to improve the effective use of resources. Employees can email the team at: UseofResourcesTeam@modot.mo.gov.

Team Lead: Karen Yeomans, district design engineer, STL
Sponsor: Matt Seiler, assistant district engineer, SE

Tona Bowen, financial services administrator, CO
Josh Chinn, maintenance worker, NE
David Cole, senior maintenance worker, SW
Angela Downey, senior human resources specialist, NW
Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager, NE
Nathan Hunt, maintenance supervisor, SE
Joe McNeill, senior highway designer, NE

Shirley Norris, project manager, STL
James Pflum, assistant resident engineer, KC
Steven Pike, support services manager, NE
Patrick Robinson, senior structural technician, CO
Bryan Ross, senior multimodal operations specialist, CO
Patrick Skain, traffic studies specialist, Central

Total Compensation - This team is charged with improving employee satisfaction and understanding regarding salary and benefits. Topics have been divided into seven sub teams led by the core team's members. The sub teams are noted next to each team member and include an additional 70 employees involved across the state. The sub teams are designed to provide further outreach opportunities for all MoDOT employees. Employees can email the team at: TotalCompensation@modot.mo.gov.

Team Lead: Jerad Noland, district design engineer, NE
Sponsor: Dennis Heckman, state bridge engineer, CO
(Sub team lead = Program Delivery engineering, supervisors)

Randy Aulbur, district maintenance & traffic engineer, CD
(Sub team lead = Maintenance and Traffic engineering, supervisor)
Josshe' Inez Palm, highway designer, NW
(Sub team lead = Program Delivery designer, inspector, technician, survey)
Jaylyn O'Connor, human resources manager, SW
(Sub team lead = Support Human Resources)

Aaron Pemberton, motorist assistance operator, STL
(Sub team lead = Maintenance and Traffic crew leader, lead worker)
Joanie Prenger, sr. financial services specialist, CO
(Sub team lead = Support Financial Services)
Marcus Slaughter, maintenance superintendent, KC
(Sub team lead = Maintenance and Traffic supervisor, superintendent)
Holly Dentner, customer relations manager, CO

Team Talk - The Value of Teamwork

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! I am sure by now many of you have your plans ready for Super Bowl Sunday. To tell you the truth, I'm not really a football fan, and my interest in the Super Bowl is mostly in who sings the national anthem and how well they do it, and of course...the commercials. (Love those Clydesdale commercials, especially the ones that also have a dog!) To me, the bigger message surrounding the Super Bowl is the message of the value of teamwork.



While there are often extraordinary plays in a big game, no coach or individual player is responsible for the win. Football, baseball, basketball, hockey...and MoDOT...all rely on team work to get the job done. We are collectively successful, or not so successful, based on what we undertake and work towards as a team.

I grew up in the era when there were a lot of westerns on TV. And I understood early on the idea of "riding for the brand." Everyone on the ranch knew what had to get done to get the herd of cattle to market. Everyone had a job. Everyone had to support and work toward the goal to be

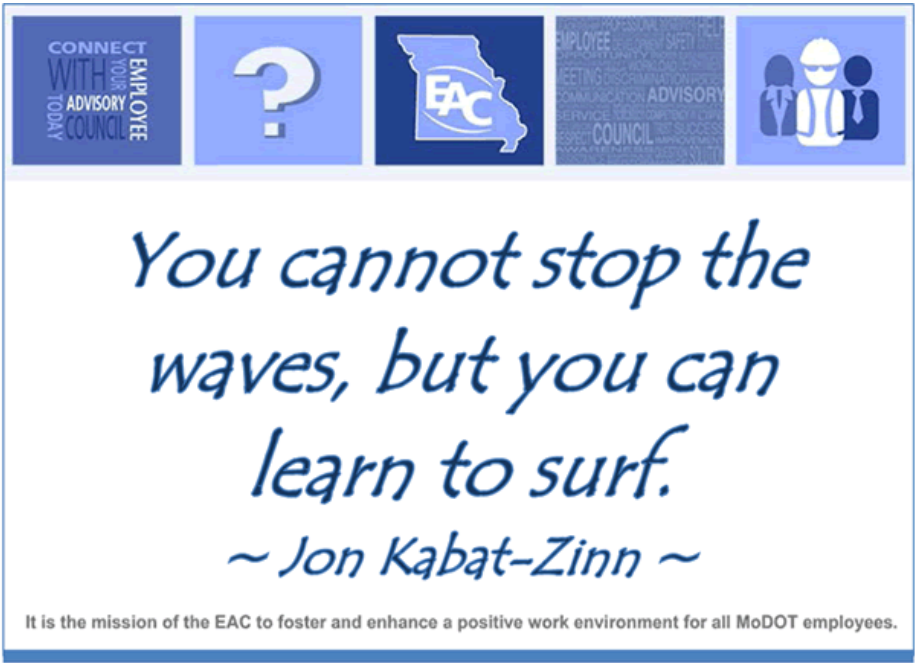
successful. If anyone headed off in their own direction, or decided not to support the brand, they put the entire herd and the objective at risk.

Same thing at MoDOT. Same thing in the Super Bowl. Each member of Team MoDOT is important. As part of Team MoDOT we should all accept our role in the success of the entire organization. Each of us should partner with others to improve what we do, and involve our customers and partners to deliver practical solutions. As One Team we can be a great workforce and great place to work.

We constantly hear the benefits of teamwork, but have you ever thought about the downside to working alone? While working alone is good in some instances, and some people even prefer it, it takes away from your ability to learn. Working alone doesn't allow you to benefit from the knowledge and ideas of others. It means your ideas aren't challenged, and you don't get the benefit of maybe being even more innovative. Perhaps the biggest downside to working alone comes when the project doesn't go as planned. When you work a project alone, it's all on you. When we work as a team, there are others to share the struggle and help get things back on track.

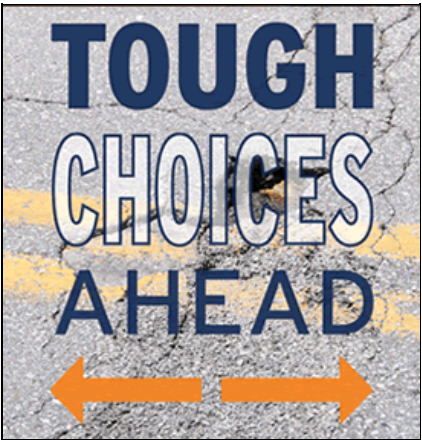
We are blessed to have very talented and diverse people on Team MoDOT, but to truly be "Team MoDOT" we must all combine our talents. I am proud to be a part of Team MoDOT, and I thank you for being part of this great team with me.

Have fun on Super Bowl Sunday!



Tough Choices Ahead - Information for Employees

Each week in Connections we'll include some information to help employees better understand where we are headed with our 325 System for primary and supplementary routes.



Why is MoDOT making these funding decisions now when the decreased construction funding level of \$325 million doesn't hit until 2017?
The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is MoDOT's budget for the next five years of construction contracts, and it's updated each year. By 2017, MoDOT's construction funding will be \$325 million, which isn't enough to keep Missouri's existing roads and bridges in the condition they're in today. MoDOT has to plan now how to work within that budget and prioritize construction funding. Even if more funding somehow became available, the process of planning and completing road work takes time and involves city, regional and state transportation professionals. That work must take place several years in advance.

How did we get here?
There are many reasons why Missouri has insufficient transportation funding. Fuel tax revenues have become a diminishing revenue stream as cars become more fuel efficient. Inflation has decreased our purchasing power by more than 50 percent. What was 17 cents (state fuel tax per gallon) of purchasing power in 1992 is now about eight cents and decreasing each year. The cost of asphalt, concrete and steel cost as much as 200 percent more than they did in 1992.

Governor Nixon's State of the State - Transportation

by Patrick Wood

On Jan. 21, Governor Jay Nixon delivered his State of the State address. Below is the portion of his speech that discusses transportation. For the full transcript go to: [Governor State of the State](#).

We've traditionally paid for roads and bridges through user fees, like the gas tax. Missourians believe it's only fair that folks who use the roads also pay for them.

But with more fuel-efficient vehicles, drivers are getting more miles out of each gallon of gas... so they end up paying less to fund our roads

As a result, money for our roads and bridges is drying up

Missouri has the seventh-largest highway system in the nation. But we rank 46th in how much we invest to maintain it.

Last week, we heard MoDOT lay out - in stark terms - what this means.

On thousands of miles of state roads, from Lindbergh in St. Louis to Rangeline in Joplin, we'll barely be able to patch potholes.



By 2017, we won't even have enough revenue to match federal highway dollars.

So what do we do?

One option is a toll road on Interstate 70. The Highway Commission's recent report showed that this approach could make I-70 better and safer ... and free up tens of millions of dollars for other roads around the state.

Trucks and out-of-state vehicles that do the most damage to I-70 would have to pay their fair share. That deserves serious consideration.

Here's another option: the gas tax.

Missouri's gas tax hasn't gone up a penny in nearly 20 years. It's the fifth-lowest in the nation. With gas prices as low as they are now, this is worth a very close look.

If we want to leave Missouri roads better than we found them, the only thing we can't do is sit still. This is a major, long-term challenge - so let's get moving now.

AP photo by Jeff Roberson.

Fatality Update



What's Happening

District	Miles
Central District	8,743
Central Office	22,810
Kansas City	12,106
Northeast	5,544
Northwest	13,172
Southeast	12,720
Southwest	18,752
St. Louis	26,273
TOTAL COMBINED	120,120

100-Mile Challenge Results

The St. Louis District is the winner of the 2014 100-Mile Challenge with a total of 26,273 miles logged. Central Office took second with 22,810 miles and the Southwest District placed third with 18,752 miles. Team MoDOT ended with a little over 120,000 total miles logged by participants.

For the win, the St. Louis District will receive a plaque commemorating their achievement. Barry Bergman of the district will be enjoying the two St. Louis Blues tickets he won in the drawing, compliments of Coventry.

Congratulations to all those who participated.



Employee Association Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 31 at 9 a.m.
Truman Hotel, 1510 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City
All current and potential members are welcome to attend. The Association is also looking for individuals to fill the positions of president and vice president.

To RSVP for the meeting or for information on the officer positions contact - teampresnicole@gmail.com.

January Retirements

John B. Christy – NW – 41	James A. Wilson – NE – 29	Kenneth G. Wyss – CD – 27
Roy E. Forbes – NW – 29	Daniel H. Newton – KC – 30	Matthew J. Budd – SL – 29
Ralph M. Morriss – NW – 36	Erik W. Mewes – KC – 31	Richard J. Herminghaus – SL – 30
William E. Keiffer – NW – 22	Kevin L. Walter – KC – 32	Tom M. Stratman – SL – 33
Keith L. Nold – NW – 30	Robert E. Hesemann – CD – 29	Wayne J. Goyea – SL – 15
Robert L. Hughson – NW – 23	Kenneth R. Steinbeck – CD – 29	James K. Clark – SE – 29
Tana L. Akright – NE – 23	John R. Forderhase – CD – 27	Mark J. Barton – SE – 23
Marion T. Baker – NE – 20	John O. Hayes – CD – 31	Jeffery J. Hogan – SE – 30
Larry D. Ballew – NE – 24	Dennis D. Noblett – CD – 28	Eugene Davis – SE – 31
Roy L. Collins – NE – 17		

In Memoriam

Travis Day - active employee CD – December 23	Donald Myers former D5 – December 19	James Roseberry former D10 – January 7
William Johnson - active employee KC – January 1	Kenneth Kronk, Sr. former D3 – December 21	Norman Hofmann former D6 – January 9
Arthur Pyeatt former D6 – December 7	Donald Zeugin CO – December 24	Alden Sallee former D7 – January 10
Ray Rackers CO – December 13	Alan Calhoun former D3 – December 26	Charles Johnson former D8 – January 12
Jimmie Woodham former D10 – December 16	Norine Lootens CO – December 28	William McCloud former D4 – January 13
Douglas Commino former D4 – December 16	Albert Barnard former D3 – December 31	Thomas Faulconer former D4 – January 18
Arthur Maher former D2 – December 18	Ralph Thater CO – January 2	Joseph H. Licklider former D9 – January 22
Harold Zbierski, Sr. former D1 – December 18	Charles Woodson former D3 – January 4	

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:





January 29, 2015

- Home
- Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition



New Customer Relations Director Discusses Priorities and Challenges

Recently appointed Customer Relations Director Fay Fleming may be new to MoDOT, but she certainly isn't new to the field of communications. She took some time to share her ideas for communicating with customers and employees.

Q. Welcome to MoDOT! What attracted you to the come to Missouri and work for the department of transportation?
I've actually spent almost 20 years in Missouri as a resident of Kansas City and St. Louis. I ultimately took the job offer based on the great people I met during interviews. They guaranteed me that MoDOT had a supportive culture of people who wanted to "get it right." AND...I'm finding that is absolutely the case with every person I've worked with so far. I also wanted an opportunity to use my diverse skills in communication, research and public speaking for a single organization.

Q. How has your past experience prepared you for this position?
I've got a lot of work experience in transportation and consulting with state agencies which made MoDOT attractive. I also worked in several organizations that had headquarters and campus offices so our organizational structure and the benefits and challenges it brings is familiar territory to me.

Q. What are your top priorities and goals as the director of customer relations?
Tackling our insufficient funding issues, higher employee engagement as we communicate our brand internally and externally and leveraging our statewide team to further build the MoDOT brand. I am very optimistic that we can achieve our goals because we have an awesome team of talented people in Customer Relations with years of perspective which will enhance our success. MoDOT will thrive because we have an abundance of smart, committed staff across the state that is ready to explore new options to move our organization forward.

Q. How can we successfully communicate the transportation funding challenge to Missourians?
We are building clear, multi-faceted messaging supported by facts that will help MoDOT win in the short run and make our messaging sustainable in the long run. Our messaging will continue to evolve as our environment and circumstances change. However, we will continue to support our agency in focusing on safety first and delivering world class transportation services.

Q. What are you looking forward to as you adapt to your new job and surroundings?
I actually got outside twice this week while it was still daylight which was great for me! I'm looking forward to trimming back my long work days as we get the Tough Choices Ahead Campaign fully launched, visiting our district offices, being on the road with a maintenance crew, and moving out of my hotel room to someplace of my own. And of course, better weather!

Q. What kinds of things do you like to do in your spare time?
I am an outdoors person so I like most things that involve having the sun shine on me like, hiking, skating, river rafting, outdoor concerts, etc. Of course I also love music, reading a good book and sharing a great meal with friends.

Q. Anything else you'd like to share with employees?
I encourage all of our employees, partners and stakeholders to help MoDOT "tell our story." While the facts and figures



Community Relations Director Fay Fleming says tackling MoDOT's insufficient funding issues and higher employee engagement are some of her top priorities.

are important, it is the people of MoDOT and our culture of collaborating, sharing and doing our best for Missourians that makes our agency exceptional!

I'll Take a Coke, a Candy Bar and Some Safety Glasses

by Patrick Wood

Vending machines are great for a quick snack, but what about for PPE? All the ease and convenience of grabbing a quick snack from a vending machine in place of a forgotten lunch has now been replicated to ease worries about compliance with PPE.



MoDOT has placed a PPE vending machine at 830 MoDOT Drive in the pool vehicle checkout location. General Services has worked with Fastenal to make these PPE vending machines a reality and offer a variety of PPE for MoDOT employees.

To operate the machine employees will need to enter their fuel pin number then select the item slot number. PPE vending machines are available in every district, but the PPE available will vary by location. At this time a team is working to standardize the PPE available in these vending machines. If you do not know your fuel pin number, contact Missy Lackman, CO-GS Fleet at (573)522-1544 or melissa.lackman@modot.mo.gov.

PPE currently in the vending machine at 830 MoDOT Drive includes:

- Leather work gloves – M, L & XL
- Brown Jersey work gloves – L
- Clear and tinted safety glasses
- AA Batteries
- D Batteries
- Duct tape
- AA Flashlight (batteries included)
- Hard hats and liners
- Hi visibility vests in yellow and orange
- Hi visibility long and short sleeve shirts – M – 4XL

Workplace Security Reminders for 2015

by Tim Taylor

Be alert to suspicious activity – Although it's been several years since the 9-11 attacks, we live in a world where there is always a potential for terrorist or other criminal acts. Whether it is a suspicious package, suspicious activity or other threats to our workplace, remember ignoring suspicious activity ultimately aids the terrorist or criminal in their efforts. Although it may seem unlikely that our workplace would be a target, it's important to be aware of what is going on around you.

A terrorist, just like a home burglar, may case a potential target before they commit an attack. That bag sitting outside the building or next to a bridge could be a test to see how observant we are. The empty backpack, briefcase, or large garbage bag that sits ignored for a week outside one of our buildings, bridges or the many other locations MoDOT is responsible for, might not be empty a few weeks later.

Be alert to scams - A MoDOT employee recently reported that she received a call from someone claiming the employee had been awarded a \$9,000 grant from the US Grant Department. The caller gave



instructions for collecting the money, which included the employee paying out over \$300.

This particular call came to the employee’s personal phone, and luckily she didn’t fall for the scam. However, an employee could receive this type of call on their work phone. Please remember the old saying that “if something sounds too good to be true, it is.”

Please take personal workplace security seriously, be aware of what’s going on around you, and report any suspicious activity to have a safe and happy 2015.

Central Office Happenings



Employee State Blood Drive – January Results and Upcoming Opportunities

The American Red Cross thanks everyone who gave blood during January. The four drives collected 124 total units of blood.

Since each pint of blood has the potential to save three different lives, the January collections will help 372 hospital patients.

March drives are now scheduled and the Red Cross hopes employees will again answer the call to give the gift of life.

March Opportunities:

- March 17 - Truman Building
- March 18 - Truman Building
- March 20 - St. Joseph’s Cathedral
- March 24 - Truman Building



First Aid /CPR /AED Classes

Wednesday, Feb. 11
8 to 11:30 a.m. and
12 to 3:30 p.m.
601 West Main, Training Room B

Space is limited, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#) (LMS Course Code 24597, titled First Aid/CPR – Infant & CPR/AED – Adult &Child.)

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 29, 2015

Northwest
District

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Employee Advisory Council



The Northwest District Employee Advisory Extension Council’s mission is to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all Northwest District employees by assisting management and employees with cultural diversity, policy review and communication issues. They meet monthly to review policy changes, meet with leadership, process any EAEC concerns that have been received, go over responses to previous concerns, work with the needy family fund and discuss any other current issues they may need to address.

The Northwest District not only has the EAEC, but we have four Northwest District employees who serve on the statewide Employee Advisory Council: Facilities Operations Supervisor Matt Sonner, Senior Office Assistant Amber Dydel, Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Welch and Senior Information Systems Technologist Cindy Gamache. Most districts have three representatives, but Matt Sonner serves as chairperson of the

statewide EAC, giving the Northwest District an additional representative. Amber Dydel also serves as the statewide EAC’s secretary.

Each person on the EAC or EAEC joins for different reasons, but to get a perspective on what it’s like to be an EAC/EAEC member, we spoke with Amber Dydel and Cindy Gamache. Dydel was asked to finish out another employee’s term on the EAC and chose to stay because she felt like she could continue to be a voice for employees and increase the awareness of diversity in the organization. She said that even though they are a diverse group of employees from across different departments, it really has a family atmosphere. When she first started, she wasn’t sure what to expect, but soon found this group truly wants to create a positive workplace for all employees.

Gamache applied to the EAC because she wanted to see if she could make a difference. “I have worked with most departments within our district,” she said. “I have had the opportunity to hear concerns and ideas while assisting people with their computers. I felt that if people were willing to talk about their concerns with me, then maybe they would be willing to let me present these concerns and see if we can find some solutions.”

Dydel said her time on the EAC has given her a better understanding of MoDOT as a whole and how everything and everyone works together. Gamache said that through being involved, she has learned about the changes the EAC and EAECs have been able to implement that would otherwise still be issues. By being a part of the EAC and EAEC, she has been able to look at different situations from another person’s point of view to see how the issues affect them, whether it’s across department or district lines. Gamache said that she now understands that, even though each district may do something, we all have the same goals and sharing the way we get things done can be beneficial to everyone. Both Dydel and Gamache cited open mindedness as a quality necessary for an EAC or EAEC member. Dydel also emphasized a willingness to establish a more inclusive organization climate by being diverse while Gamache chose empathy and listening: actively listening to the concerns of employees and asking why. Why do we do it that way, and, is there a better way?

If you would like to join the district EAEC, please contact Lathrop Maintenance Supervisor Jason Utz. To inquire about the statewide EAC, you can talk to any of the four statewide EAEC representatives or apply through the EAC link on the MoDOT SharePoint site. Once on the EAC page, just click “Get Involved.”

MoDOT Recruits Student Drivers

Senior Maintenance Worker Roy Roush took a snow blower to the Maryville East Side Head Start on Jan. 21, 2015, to share with the students there. They got to climb in the snow blower and learn about how MoDOT uses it and other equipment to make slippery winter roads safer for drivers.



Maryville East Side Head Start students learn from Senior Maintenance Worker Roy Roush about the large machines MoDOT uses to clear snow.



Students had the opportunity to explore the cab of the snow blower with the assistance of Roush.



The smile on this student's face after exploring the cab of the snow blower with Roush may mean a future career with MoDOT!



The teachers and students from Maryville East Side Head Start really enjoyed their visit with Roush and the snow blower.

For more info

Marcia Johnson
Customer Relations Specialist
Northwest District
816.387.2495
Marcia.Johnson@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 29, 2015

Home
Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Northeast District

Bicyclists and Motorists Share the Road

Whose road is it, the motorists or bicyclists? Either way, mutual respect is necessary between both. We all need to share the road.

As our world becomes more conscious about being healthy, motorists will encounter more bicyclists and pedestrians because it is a great way to get fresh air and a work out as well. With several bike enthusiasts in the Kirksville area, MoDOT has found a way to make it safer for bicyclists to travel in the area. Four pavement projects are scheduled to be completed in Kirksville this year, and two of them will include marking part of the paved shoulders as bike lanes.



Pictured above is MO 6 west of Kirksville where the new bike lanes will be added.

Cyclists travel along Missouri Route 6 to Thousand Hills State Park located west of Kirksville. When it was determined that Missouri 6 would be resurfaced from Business Route 63 in Kirksville west to Novinger, the decision was made to stripe the shoulder as a bike lane.

“We wanted to find a way to make it safer for the motorists and cyclists who were sharing the road,” said Amy Crawford, MoDOT area engineer.

Business Route 63 beginning at Route 6 west by Wal-Mart to the U.S. 63 interchange will also be resurfaced and include the bike lanes.

“Cyclists, just like most motorists, are not there to inconvenience other users of the road,” Crawford added. “These additions will help ensure traffic continues to flow, and everyone is safer.”

The projects are expected to begin this spring.

Around the District...



The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety had the opportunity to purchase two driving simulators that will be used in driver's education classes at area high schools. The simulators give students a hands on experience on what it takes to be a safe driver. Pictured above, faculty at Troy try out one of the simulators.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 29, 2015



- Home
- Central Office

Districts

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Kansas City
- Central
- St. Louis
- Southwest
- Southeast

- Archives
- Print Page
- Print Entire Edition

Two MoDOT Northland Projects Win Concrete Awards

An all-concrete diverging diamond interchange at Tiffany Springs Parkway and I-29 and a five-mile stretch of heavily-traveled Route 210 will be awarded high honors next month by the American Concrete Paving Association. Both MoDOT projects were completed this past summer and were directed by Resident Engineer Brian Burger’s Nashua Project Office team.

The Tiffany Springs and I-29 is one of the only all-concrete diverging diamond interchanges in Missouri. Begun in March and fully functional by July, the \$10.4 million project included more than \$2.56 million in concrete work, some 61,930 square yards. Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc. was the general contractor that transformed the former traditional diamond interchange into a DDI with minimal impact to travelers. Portland concrete product was supplied by Talon Concrete and Aggregates LLC. The project is being recognized as the winner in ACPA’s Interchange Expansion/Improvement category.



The Tiffany Springs and I-29 is one of the only all-concrete diverging diamond interchanges in the state.

The Route 210 paving project widened the Platte County state highway from two to four lanes between I-435 and Route 291, building a concrete highway nine inches thick and 26 feet wide to double lane capacity over a five-mile stretch. The busy highway currently handles 13,700 vehicles per day in a steadily developing area of Kansas City north of the Missouri River. Begun in March 2014, the \$15 million project took less than a year to complete, fully opening to traffic in late November. The project required 100,000 square yards of paving. Ideker Inc. was the general contractor, and Central Plains Cement Company and Talon Concrete and Aggregates supplied the concrete. The project is being recognized as the winner in ACPA’s Urban Arterials & Collectors category.

The awards will be presented to MoDOT and the contractors at the 35th Annual Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Conference March 4 in Kansas City.

Center Spans of Fairfax Bridge Dropped in Spectacular Fashion

Following a blast to remove the end spans a week earlier, crews recently detonated the center span of the historic Fairfax Bridge. An audience of more than 200 citizens and crew applauded the boom that shook the ground, dropped the bridge and startled the wild life.

Click [here](#) to watch a video of the demolition.



The current U.S. 69 Highway Bridge over the Missouri River is a dual bridge structure consisting of the Platte Purchase Bridge and the Fairfax Bridge. Those bridges connect Platte County, Mo. and Wyandotte County, Ks.

The southbound Route 69 Bridge, commonly referred to as the Fairfax Bridge, was built in 1933. The northbound Route 69 Bridge, commonly referred to as the Platte Purchase Bridge, was built in 1957.

The new structure will be a singular bridge with multiple lanes and bike/pedestrian access and will be open to traffic in December 2016. This is a project shared by the Kansas Department of Transportation and MoDOT.

Learn more about [this project online](#) and follow updates on twitter at [twitter.com/MoDOT_KC](#), #us69MoRiverBridge

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager,
Missouri Department of Transportation
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov
P: (816) 607-2027
F: (816) 365-0860

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:





January 29, 2015

- Home
- Central Office

- Districts
 - Northwest
 - Northeast
 - Kansas City
 - Central
 - St. Louis
 - Southwest
 - Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print Entire Edition

Central District

Central District Project Honored by ACPA

Central District’s Dent County Route 19 resurfacing and shouldering project has been honored as the winning project in the Special Applications category to be awarded at the annual American Concrete Pavement Association Conference and Workshop on March 3-5.

The Route 19 project’s contractor Pace Construction, who will share the honor with MoDOT, placed Roller Compacted Concrete on both of the shoulders on 18.48 miles of Route 19 from Route 32 in Salem to just south of Route KK.

The Roller Compacted Concrete process begins by mixing the concrete at a plant. The concrete is then hauled in a dump truck to the site. The concrete is placed on the shoulders using a road widener and is compacted with a series of three rollers. Once the third pass is made, concrete is hardened enough to allow vehicles to turn into driveways. The Roller Compacted Concrete was cured using a heavy coat of tack and sealed to retain moisture to provide proper strength.



Williams Named Maintenance Superintendent



James Williams

James Williams has been named the new Maintenance Superintendent over Morgan, Moniteau, Cooper and Howard Counties.

Williams previously served as the maintenance supervisor over the Columbia facility. We would like to wish him the best of luck and congratulations on the new position.

Gear Up Mentor Training Held at District

Central District Maintenance Superintendent Jim Hager (left) and Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Jason Shafer lead an exercise during Gear Up Mentor Training on Jan. 27 at the district office.

Over 40 mentors from maintenance buildings participated in the training, which guides new employees through their training and onboarding at MoDOT.

The exercise pictured displayed how to provide very detailed instructions from mentor (Hager) to new employee (Shafer).

This exercise involved instructions on how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. As a part of this exercise, the mentor must assume that the new employee does not know anything about how to make the sandwich.



Central District Maintenance Superintendent Jim Hager (left) instructs Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Jason Shafer (right) how to make a peanut butter sandwich as a part of Gear up Mentor Training on Jan. 27 in the Muri Room.

MoDOT's Baumhoer Retiring After 36 Years



Maintenance Superintendent Dale Baumhoer is retiring after 36 years of service with MoDOT.

Baumhoer has served as a maintenance superintendent with the District for the past seven years.

Dale, we wish you the very best and much happiness in your retirement. You will be missed at MoDOT.

Around the District

Central District Engineer Dave Silvester (bottom left) cooks a pancake breakfast for members of the Salem maintenance facility as a thank you for all of their hard work.

Silvester and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner, along with other members of the management team, have been making their way through the district



maintenance buildings providing breakfast as a way to let them know how much they are appreciated.



Central District workers stripe the edge of the road on Route 63 in Jefferson City.

Buckle Bear (aka Central District Senior Customer Service Representative Janie Gieck) and Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson (left) recently made a visit to United Church of Christ Preschool in California to talk to the kids about signs and what they mean, and about buckling up when they ride in a vehicle.



For more info

Sally Oxenhandler
Customer Relations Manager
Central District
573-522-3375
Sally.Oxenhandler@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

St. Louis
District

January 29, 2015

Home

Central Office

Districts

Northwest

Northeast

Kansas City

Central

St. Louis

Southwest

Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

St. Louis District Lands Bragging Rights in 100-Mile Challenge

Staying active and improving physical fitness means a lot more to some St. Louis district employees than a challenge from Governor Nixon. To these employees it is a natural way of life. Nevertheless, because of their willingness to log their miles, the St. Louis district landed first place in the MoDOT 100-mile challenge.



Kevin Koch, senior construction inspector, logged more than 5,400 miles on the MoDOT 100-mile challenge. The majority of his miles came from bicycling and the rest from hiking and cardio workouts.

“Cycling is typically a solo sport so this was the first time I was able to contribute my efforts towards a team goal. Even though I normally accumulate high mileage every year, this challenge motivated me to do a little extra,” said Koch.

Barry Bergman, senior engineering professional, logged more than 3300 miles. Like Koch, the majority of his miles came from bicycling and the rest from walking/jogging. Bergman is also the winner of the St. Louis Blues tickets from the raffle in the challenge.

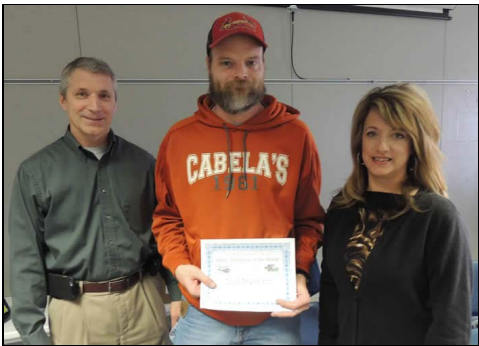
“It was great to see the St. Louis district put in all of the effort to meet this challenge. I am very proud to be a part of this great accomplishment,” said Bergman.

The St. Louis district logged more than 26,000 miles for the challenge. The district will also receive a plaque for all of the hard work the employees put into winning first place in the MoDOT 100-mile challenge.



Safety Employee of Month Goes Above and Beyond for Safer Roads

Thanks to the quick actions of Chad Engemann, St. Charles County motorists evaded a potential road hazard last month. Engemann detected an icy road, immediately forewarned motorists and treated the road. His actions have earned him Safety Employee recognition for December.



Chad Engemann (Center) receives safety recognition at the SL staff meeting from District Engineer Greg Horn (left) and Safety & Health Manager Lisa Lamons (right) on Jan. 27.

While traveling on a rural route in St. Charles County, Engemann, a construction inspector, noticed an Oats transportation bus in front of him fishtail. Immediately another vehicle on the road did the same. Engemann realized that there was black ice on the road. He instantly activated his warning lights and got out of his vehicle to assess the road. He notified customer service to report the location and was told that maintenance was currently handling other calls and could not come right away.

Engemann quickly assessed the area and spotted a feed store nearby. He walked over to the store, with his own money purchased two bags of rock salt and spread it over the black ice on the road. He stayed to monitor the road to ensure that the salt was effective.

“Chad went the extra mile in identifying a safety issue and taking care of it. He clearly acted out the ‘My customers are safe’ MoDOT safety competency,” said Lisa Lamons, district safety & health manager.

In addition to the recognition, Engemann will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and a Safety Employee of the Month certificate.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District
314-453-1807
Marie.Elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 29, 2015

Home
Central Office

Districts
Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives
Print Page
Print Entire Edition

Southwest District

Southwest District at Work



CLEARING BRUSH – Senior Maintenance Worker Clint Erwin clears brush along the right-of-way on Route 171 north of Carthage. (Photo/David Mitchell)



SEALING CRACKS – Mt. Vernon Senior Maintenance Workers Scott Hill (left), Jody White (center) and Maintenance Worker Justin Bishop seal cracks along Route U north of Sarcoxie. (Photo/David Mitchell)



ROUNDAABOUT INSTRUCTION – Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Dave Taylor answers a woman's questions following a presentation about navigating dual-lane roundabouts at Fellowship Baptist Church in Joplin. Click on the image to view a brief video from that presentation. (Photo/David Mitchell)



DIVERGING DIAMOND UPDATE – Springfield Construction Inspector Jacob Capeder discusses upcoming traffic impacts at the Diverging Diamond Interchange being built at Route 65 & Battlefield Road in Springfield. Click on the image to view a video update of the project. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Reunited, and it Feels so Good!

by Jennifer Williams

Springfield Maintenance Supervisor, Ryan West, was on his way home one evening and noticed something unusual on the side of Route 65 near the Kearney Street (Route 744) exit in Springfield – quilts. He stopped to investigate and found five quilts and pieces of their cedar chest along the side of the road. Knowing that the plows were likely to come through in the next few hours, Ryan collected them all and placed them in the back of his truck.

Once home, Ryan's wife brought his attention to the importance of the quilts. She told him,



‘You know those are old, and will be very important to someone’s family.’” Ryan tells us, “So I figured I’d better bring them in and see if we could locate their owner. I thought social media might be the way to go.”

Springfield Maintenance Supervisor, Ryan West (far right) with Lois Maddux and grandsons (left to right) Elija, Owen and Chase. (Photo/Jennifer Williams)

That’s when Ryan contacted the SW District’s Customer Relations team and the investigation began. The team posted a plea on social media sites asking for help. The message spread quickly across the nation, with the post being seen by almost 60,000 individuals and being shared nearly 550 times on Facebook - our most popular post ever!



The ‘tag’ quilters alerted the CR Team to look for, which lead us to Lois. (Photo/Jennifer Williams)

A quilting group suggested looking for a ‘tag,’ and after looking over each of the quilts, one was found indicating the quilt had been sewn by Lois Maddux in Buffalo, Mo. The CR Team managed to find contact details for Lois and left her a phone message and Facebook message. At the same time, the post had reached her son and niece, as well as family member and Buffalo Senior Maintenance Worker, Keith Maddux.

Only a few hours later, Lois phoned SW CR Manager, Jennifer Williams, ecstatic that we had found her quilts, which had been lost off the back of a vehicle as she moved from Ozark to Manhattan, Kan. Lois arranged to come in to the District Office to collect the quilts on New Year’s Eve with her three grandsons, Elija, Owen and Chase. It was an emotional reunion, and she thanked Ryan for going above and beyond for collecting her quilts and making sure they were returned to her.

Ryan was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Customer Service at the SW Management Team meeting on Jan. 27.

For more info

Jennifer Williams
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Jennifer.Williams@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:



Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 29, 2015

Home
Central Office

Districts

Northwest
Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

Archives

Print Page

Print
Entire Edition

Southeast District

Longest Serving Southeast Employee to Retire

Q&A with Maintenance Superintendent Lawrence Schumer

After 42 years of service at MoDOT, Maintenance Superintendent Lawrence Schumer is retiring. Lawrence is the Southeast District's longest serving employee. During the last four decades with MoDOT, he has seen quite a few changes and had many memorable moments.

Recently, Lawrence was asked several questions to provide a snapshot of his career.

How did your MoDOT career begin?

Connie and I had just gotten married, and I was looking for steady work with insurance. I knew the shed supervisor at the Ste. Genevieve shed, and there was an opening. He talked to the area supervisor, and I was offered the job. Hiring practices were a lot less formal in those days.

What made you want to work at MoDOT?

It was a steady, secure job that offered benefits. I had little training and experience, but in those days a strong back was the main requirement. I also wanted outside work.

What was your favorite part of working at MoDOT?

Initially, working outdoors. Growing up on a farm, this was the type of work I was used to and enjoyed. The biggest thing, though, is the great people I have worked with through the years. Maintenance shed employees are like families, having a lot of fun with each other, arguing at times but having each other's backs when it counts.

Also, getting the opportunity to advance to my current position has given me personal satisfaction.

What is your most memorable moment of working at MoDOT?

I don't think I can pick any one thing. There were bad ice and snow storms in the late 70s and early 80s. The flood of 93 is another event that I'll always remember. More recently, a train struck the Route M overpass in Scott County, causing the structure to collapse. The event happened Memorial Day weekend in 2013. Maintenance's role was primarily when the incident first occurred, but it is something unusual and memorable.

If you could give new employees one piece of advice, what would it be?

Don't sit back and wait for others to determine your future, come to work with a positive attitude, work to better your abilities through training and above all be safe. I guess that's more than one!

What are some of the biggest changes you have seen since you started?

One of the biggest changes is in the equipment we use in maintenance. When I started, most of the trucks were Dodge 2-ton gas trucks with about 4-yard beds. We had no pickups or tandems. We had one truck with a 2-way radio that the shed foreman drove.

Most of our mowers were sickle mowers, and we mowed the entire right-of-way at least twice a year. Our asphalt was all made and laid with a grader. Every shed had large stock piles of rock and mixing boards. Gravel was dried and mixed on the shed lot for patching. When we overlaid a road, contractors would haul rock to the road and spread it. Graders would dry the rock by blading it, and then oil was shot in the rock. The mix was made right on the road and laid.

Another major change is obviously in communication. As I said only one truck had a 2-way radio, no AM/FM radios in



Maintenance Superintendent Lawrence Schumer (middle) accepts 40-year service award from Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger (left) and SE District Engineer Mark Shelton (right).

the trucks and no cell phones. If you got stuck plowing snow, you had to walk to a house to use a phone or wait until someone come looking for you. If they were calling for snow after hours, you had to hang around your house phone so you would get the call. In addition, there were no answering machines, no computers to check the radar, and weather forecasting was a lot less accurate. Advancements in communication have really increased the efficiency in our maintenance work.

Also, the training offered to employees today didn't exist back then. I think the value placed on employee development and well-being has increased greatly. There is a much greater emphasis on employee safety now.

But, one thing that hasn't changed is the great people that I have had the pleasure to work with through the years.

NB Fruitland Rest Area Converted to Truck Parking

On Nov. 25, 2014, a fire at the northbound Fruitland Rest Area left the building unusable and resulted in the facility's closure. But MoDOT made the facility useful again by reopening it Jan. 23 to serve as commercial truck parking.

"We looked at rebuilding the facility versus converting it to truck parking," said MoDOT Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler. "The cost to rebuild the rest area, not including yearly maintenance contracts, would cost Missouri taxpayers more than \$115,000. We weighed that against the number of nearby private businesses offering 24-hour service to travelers. We feel converting the facility to truck parking is the best option for the taxpayers of Missouri."



Commercial vehicles comprise approximately 30 to 35 percent of the average daily traffic on our interstates. The conversion of the northbound Fruitland rest area will help reduce the current, unsafe practice of parking on ramps and will provide commercial vehicle operators a place to rest to meet their USDOT requirements.

Once fully converted, the site will offer more than 15 parking spaces for commercial trucks and vault restrooms. Until the vault restrooms are complete, portable restrooms will be available.

"Currently, the cost to maintain the Welcome Centers at Marston and Hayti, as well as the dual Fruitland facilities and northbound Bloomsdale rest area is nearly \$1,400,000," said Seiler. "Because of the reduced maintenance with the conversion to truck parking, we are negotiating new rest area cleaning contracts. Any additional cost savings to Missouri taxpayers will be spent to repair roads and bridges."

Missouri began constructing rest areas based on criteria established in 1968. At that time, rest areas were constructed to provide travelers with restroom facilities and a place to stretch their legs. With private businesses now providing these same opportunities and better built vehicles, the need for rest areas is not as critical today. But there is a growing demand for commercial vehicle parking.

"Parking space for commercial vehicles is a nationwide concern," said Seiler. "Commercial vehicles comprise approximately 30 to 35 percent of the average daily traffic on our interstates. More parking will help commercial vehicle operators meet their USDOT requirements to rest and will reduce the current, unsafe practice of parking on ramps."

The Southeast District has previously converted four facilities to truck parking along Interstate 55. Those include the dual rest areas located in Steele, the northbound facility at Marston and the southbound facility at Bloomsdale. All feature parking for commercial vehicles and vault restrooms, while the Bloomsdale facility houses a weigh scale also.

Thank You Letter to Maintenance Crew

Below is an excerpt from a letter written to the Houston Maintenance Crew:

My wife and I live on a small farm located in Elk Creek, Mo. There are two items we want to share with you as work well done by your employees.

- I reported a problem with a 2-foot diameter dead elm tree adjoining our property. The tree was actually within the ROW. A strong south wind could have blown the tree into the travel way. I called your foreman, Travis Pearson, and asked him to have a look and if he agreed that it was a safety issue to please remove the hazard. Mr. Pearson responded and took care of the problem timely. Thank you—Mr. Travis Pearson.*
- Sometime last month in November, your crew preformed the task of bush hogging on both sides of Highway H. The operator of that work needs recognition for a job well done. Should you have time for a field trip, please drive by and have a look. A look is better than words.*

Thanks to you and your fine crew.

Respectfully,
Rick and Sally Hill

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

